Rifle shots (gun shots). Several gunshots are fired on Christmas Eve at night and on New Year's Eve.

On Christmas Eve, the members of a family are in the habit of reuniting at their father's or at the home of the oldest of the line. Those who live far off often make a long journey to be there. At supper, the head of the house, takes a glass full of wine and drinks to the health of all his [relatives]. The same toast is repeated at the end of the meal. Each drinks in his turn to the health of all the members of the family and also of all those who are absent.

When supper is over, hymns are sung. There comes then a ritual. It is that of blowing the charcoal (souffler le charbon). Here is how it is played:

The end of a string is attached to the ceiling and is allowed to descend to the height of the mouth, at the other [lower] end is a pin stuck through a live coal. The young people form a circle around this suspended coal, each blows it with all his might in the direction of...
person opposite him. This one does the same and if he laughs or if the blowing of the person opposite him is stronger than his', the coal will land on his face. Then comes shouts of prolonged laughter.